

and the Nation. I will miss him as a friend, a colleague, and a true champion.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to our distinguished colleague, HAROLD FORD. HAROLD is retiring at the end of this term after a remarkable 22-year career in the House of Representatives. HAROLD has represented the city of Memphis since 1974, when he was elected to this body after serving 4 years in the Tennessee House. He was the first, and is the only, African-American elected to the Congress from Tennessee.

HAROLD came to the House as one of the 47 democratic freshman elected following the infamous Watergate scandal, and worked diligently to bring integrity and honesty back to Washington. He was one of the first members of the Congressional Black Caucus, joining at a time when we numbered just a handful of members and before we earned the considerable influence that we have gained since then.

While the boundaries of HAROLD'S congressional district cover just the city of Memphis, HAROLD has represented all of America's big cities through his effectiveness on the powerful Ways and Means Committee. In 1993 during the budget debate, HAROLD advanced the empowerment zone proposal through the committee and the Congress, establishing six urban and three rural empowerment zones, worth \$100 million each in Federal assistance. It is the most significant antipoverty initiative since the 1960's, and will help cities alleviate unemployment, spark economic growth, encourage more training and education, and end crime and drug abuse. This achievement is particularly significant to me; my hometown Detroit was named one of the urban zones December 1994.

HAROLD'S work on the Ways and Means Committee has also allowed him to dedicate his efforts to improving welfare. In fact, HAROLD was working on welfare reform before welfare reform was popular. In 1988, HAROLD worked with then-Governor Bill Clinton to write the most important welfare reform bill to date, the Family Support Act of 1988. The bill was designed to increase opportunities and obligations for work, training and education among recipients of Aid to Families with Dependent Children [AFDC], and required States to start education, training, and work programs for mothers on AFDC. It included provisions for medical and child care for mothers moving from welfare to work and significantly strengthened child support enforcement laws.

In 1993, HAROLD was successful in including the Family Preservation Act in the budget bill. This child welfare provision encourages States to create family support programs and programs to keep at-risk families together. It is the kind of welfare reform that we can be proud of.

Mr. Speaker, this body will sorely miss HAROLD FORD'S integrity, honesty, and diligence. I will miss him here, and in the Congressional Black Caucus, where we have spent more than two decades working together. I wish HAROLD the best of luck in his retirement, and know he will prosper next year in whatever vocation he may choose.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to submit a statement into the RECORD on the subject that I have talked about tonight, the upcoming re-

tirement of Congressman HAROLD FORD, Sr., from the U.S. House of Representatives.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

TRIBUTE TO HAROLD FORD, SR.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas [Ms. JACKSON-LEE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Tennessee for drawing our attention to the Honorable HAROLD FORD.

Ironies have its virtues. HAROLD FORD was my boss. I served as a counsel to the Select Committee on Assassinations. It was there first that I saw in this American a commitment to duty, a recognition of the seriousness of the task: The investigation into the assassination of President John F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King.

It was there, as a young lawyer, that I was able to see the leadership of a young Congressperson, someone who realized that the American people still were querying this Government about whether they were satisfied at the investigation of those two very disturbing and horrible assassinations.

HAROLD FORD went about his business with extreme dedication and seriousness, recognizing that the work that he would do would either give comfort to the American people about this system or otherwise cause catastrophe and confusion. I am gratified that he stood for finding out the truth but in a balanced and honest manner that all could respect.

I have watched in these 2 years as a freshman in the U.S. Congress, and even on this floor I see that he cares about his colleagues, he cares about his constituents, and he shows it in his legislative agenda.

As a Congressperson that has been re-elected for 11 terms from the Ninth District of Tennessee, we are sure that the people of his great city, Memphis, and his State, love HAROLD FORD. They love him not only because he cares, but because HAROLD FORD is a family man.

And let me take my hat off to N.J. and Vera Ford, for they raised a family that considered public service the best testament to their commitment to the American flag and to this Nation.

He is someone who comes from a historic line of Fords and individuals who know and are part of the Tennessee history. He knows that his leadership has created the foundation for his three sons as he stood alongside of his partner. And I look forward to being able to have the opportunity to welcome his son, Harold Ford, Jr., to this body.

I watched Congressman FORD most of all through the tumultuous 104th Congress, for he had the issues that touched the people's lives who have the least among our brothers and sisters:

health care, welfare reform, children at risk, and one that I think was particularly close to him, something called the EITC, the earned income tax credit.

If ever there was a piece of legislation that withstood its attack, it was the earned income tax credit. I think Congressman FORD saw that as a way to give incentives to the working poor who, through no fault of their own, seemed to be always accused of not wanting to work.

HAROLD FORD recognized that if we gave an incentive to single parents and individuals who were barely over the poverty line to continue working, to continue going every day to work, that there would be something in it for America.

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Earned income tax credit gives to those barely over the poverty line a credit back for working. And I saw and watched HAROLD FORD work throughout the 104th Congress time after time after time saying to Republicans and Democrats alike, we cannot sacrifice the earned income tax credit, something that most people cannot even say the words or the acronym, but he fought for it because he believed in those people that sacrificed every day and said, I am not going to be on welfare, I am going to work, and they deserved an incentive.

Then when it came to welfare reform, HAROLD FORD was at every single meeting, not to beat people down, not to accuse people, but to say to all of us, there is a better way, that there needs to be a bridge, we need to protect children. I have the expertise; I am here to help. I am here to create that bridge. And HAROLD FORD did it consistently for 11 terms, but more particularly in this 104th Congress, as the ranking member on ways and means subcommittee.

So I say to his family, I say to HAROLD FORD, I thank you for teaching me. I thank you for giving those of us who would aspire to the calmness and the demeanor that you bring to this body, the evenhandedness, the compassion, the love for America, the love for Texans and Tennesseans, because I am a Texan, the love for those from Memphis, but as well the love for family and the love for those who cannot help themselves, I thank you for being that shining light.

As you go off, not from this place in terms of our hearts but physically from this place, let me call upon you to continue your leadership and to continue paving the way as we move into the 21st century. We will always be looking to hear your voice. We know that we will hear it in your son, Harold, but most of all, as I close, we know that you will continue that service. Again, let me join my good friend from Tennessee, Congressman BOB CLEMENT, to say you are a great Tennessean, but you are truly a great American.

God bless you.